U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
73544 Hwy 64
Meeker, CO 81641

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-110-2005-009 -EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COC-57321

PROJECT NAME: APD well # CSF 42-6-5-103

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T.5S R.103W SENE sec.6, 6th P.M.

APPLICANT: Evergreen Operating Corp. (Pioneer)

ISSUES AND CONCERNS (optional): ***Lease expires 12/1/04***

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Proposed Action: *The applicant proposes to perform the following actions:* Construct access road approx. 400'x 20' ROW (0.2 ac.), and well pad 200'x 300' (1.4 ac.). Drill the well, and install two buried pipelines (4" polyethylene water & 4" steel hydrocarbon) in same trench 425'x 30' additional ROW (0.3 ac) parallel to access road. The water pipelines will dead end pending further development. Total surface disturbance on BLM would be approx. 2 acres.

Pipeline crossings will be ramped or planked as required by pipeline companies. The road will be crowned and ditched with a 15' running surface. Drainage dips will be installed in road. No culverts, vehicle turn outs, gates, or cattleguards will be needed. Gravel, if needed, will be bought from an existing commercial site. All production facilities will be painted Juniper Green, except for OSHA parts. Stacks and vents will be built to discourage nesting or perching.

Water used for drilling will be trucked from a private source in Rangely or Bonanza. Trees will be bucked and piled, chipped, or otherwise disposed of as required by BLM. A diversion ditch will be cut west of the pad. East corners of the pad will be rounded to reduce fill height. The top ≈6" of soil and brush will be stripped and piled south of the pad. Pit sub soils will be piled west of the pit. No pit liner is planned. The reserve pit will be fenced live stock tight on three sides with woven wire topped with barbed wire. The fourth side will be fenced the same when drilling is completed. At least 2' of freeboard will be maintained in the reserve pit. The fence will be kept in good repair while the pit dries. The flare pit will be similarly fenced and will have ≈10' high of dirt backstop. Flare pit fluids will drain via trench to the reserve pit. All trash will be

placed in a portable trash cage. Trash will be hauled to a state approved landfill. No trash will be placed in the reserve pit.

Human wastes will be disposed of in chemical toilets. Toilet and trailer holding tank waste will be hauled to a state approved disposal site. Camp trailers will be on location for the company man, tool pusher, and mud logger.

Reclamation starts once the reserve pit is dry. The road and well site will be contoured to a natural shape, topsoil and brush spread evenly over disturbed areas, and disturbed areas ripped or harrowed. Seeding will be done in accordance with BLM stipulations. Seed bag tag will be kept. Road will be blocked and water bars will be installed. If the well is a producer, then the reserve pit and any other areas not needed for work overs will be reclaimed as described above.

No Action Alternative: No additional environmental impacts would occur.

NEED FOR THE ACTION: To respond to request by applicant to exercise lease rights and develop potential hydrocarbon reserves.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Pages 2-49 thru 2-52

Decision Language: "To make public lands available for the siting of public and private facilities through the issuance of applicable land use authorizations, in a manner that provides for reasonable protection of other resource values."

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: The entire White River RA has been designated as either attainment or unclassified for all pollutants, and most of the area has been designated prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) class II.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would result in short term, local impacts to air quality during construction, from fugitive dust being blown into the air.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Under the no action alternative, there would be no adverse affects on air quality.

Mitigation: Require dust abatement measures in the authorizing document.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed well pad, access road and well tie pipeline have been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Metcalf 2004, Compliance Dated 10/06/2004) with no cultural resources identified in the inventory area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action will not impact any known cultural resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to cultural resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: 1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever

recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: The vegetation on site is a bottom sage/greasewood community has deep soils and contains sagebrush, greasewood, basin wildrye, blue grama, and cheatgrass. Several noxious weed species have been found in the area including Russian and spotted knapweed, bull and musk thistle, hoary cress and cheatgrass. The outbreaks of knapweed were on well pads and were probably transported on site by construction equipment or support vehicles. The haory cress is found on the private lands above the project area. All of the sites found on public lands have been treated and controlled.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Using the proposed seed mix should establish quickly and stabilize soils. The seed mix contains non-native species and these are recommended because of the harsh environmental conditions and grazing pressure. The recommended species have not been shown to hybridize with adjacent plant species or to move offsite. Controlling noxious weeds as described by mitigation would prevent noxious weed species from moving off-site and establishing in the adjacent plant communities.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts.

Mitigation: From the WRRA ROD/RMP of 1997, Appendix B, Application of herbicides must be under field supervision of an EPA-certified pesticide applicator. Herbicides must be registered by the EPA and application proposals must be approved by the BLM.

Seed species used in reseeding disturbed areas will be based on the seed mixes identified in table B1 and B2. These mixes are based on range sites as determined by soils. Use Standard Seed Mix #2 listed below.

Table B-1. Standard Seed Mixes

Seed Mix #	Species (Variety)	Lbs PLS/ Acre	Range sites
2	Western wheatgrass (Arriba) Pubescent wheatgrass (Luna) Russian wildrye (Bozoisky) Crested wheatgrass (Fairway/Ephraim)	3 2 2 2	Alkaline Slopes, Clayey Foothills, Clayey Slopes, Claypan, Mountain Shale

Seed Mix #	Species (Variety)	Lbs PLS/ Acre	Range sites
	Yellow sweetclover (Madrid) Fourwing saltbush (Wytana/Rincon)	0.5 2	

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: An array of migratory birds, nest during the months of May, June and July within the sagebrush, greasewood, and pinyon-juniper communities found in the vicinity of the proposed well pad. Bird populations associated with these communities that have a higher conservation interest (i.e., Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Partners in Flight program) include Brewer's sparrow and green-tailed towhee (shrublands) and black-throated gray warbler and gray flycatcher (younger seral woodlands). There are no specialized or narrowly endemic species known to occupy the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: To maintain current development rights on this lease, the operator must begin drilling this well by December 1, 2004. Consequently, drilling and completion operations on this well would be finalized by late January—well before the arrival of migratory birds and initiation of their nest activities. The proposed action would have no influence on the nesting activity of migratory birds.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would potentially influence nesting activity of migratory birds.

Mitigation: None.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE ANIMAL SPECIES (includes a finding on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: There are no animals listed, proposed, or candidate to the Endangered Species Act or those categorized by the BLM as sensitive that are known to inhabit or derive important benefit from the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would have no conceivable influence on special status species or associated habitats.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have potential to influence special status species or their habitats.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for Threatened & Endangered species: Because there are no special status species inhabiting or deriving benefit from the project area,

application of the Public Land Health Standards for T&E animals are not applicable to this action. Implementation of either the proposed or no-action alternatives would have no influence on the status of land health standards applied to off-site lands.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials are known to have been used, stored or disposed of at sites included in the project area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: No listed or extremely hazardous materials in excess of threshold quantities are proposed for use in this project. While commercial preparations of fuels and lubricants proposed for use may contain some hazardous constituents, they would be stored, used and transported in a manner consistent with applicable laws, and the generation of hazardous wastes would not be anticipated. Solid wastes would be properly disposed of.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No hazardous or other solid wastes would be generated under the no-action alternative.

Mitigation: The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by the proposed actions.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: The proposed action is in the West Evacuation Creek drainage which is tributary to Evacuation Creek. Drainages are tributary to the White River in Utah. As required by the Clean Water Act, the state of Utah has designated the White River from the Colorado-Utah state line to its confluence with the Green River as fully supporting of all of its beneficial use classifications. This stream reach=s beneficial use classifications are: Recreation and Aesthetics, 2B; and Aquatic Life Use Support, 3C. Four parameters have been listed on the Numeric Criteria for this reach. These are: dissolved oxygen, 5.5 mg/l; pH, 6.5-9.0; maximum Fecal Coliform, 2000/100mL; and maximum Total Coliform, 5000/100mL. For these parameters, a fully supporting rating indicated the criterion was not exceeded in more than 10% of the samples collected. While the highest level of water quality protection does not apply to these waters, they are protected for their existing uses and from further degradation as a result of non-point source (sediment) pollution. Efforts need to be made to keep sediment from leaving the site.

Water quality data is not available for these upper reaches of West Evacuation Creek. This segment of stream is considered to be intermittent, which means it flows in direct response to winter snow melt and late summer/fall rainstorms and ground water discharge (perennial flows are only on segments of the drainage) expressed at the surface. Water quality of precipitation is considered to be of good quality, but can be high is sediment depending on the magnitude and

duration of the storm event. The quality of ground water is dependent on the formation in which it flows through. In this area it is the Mesaverde which can be of very good quality. Dissolved-solids concentration of the ground water ranges from about 300 to 2,500mg/L but is normally less than 1,000 mg/L.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Fragile watersheds that have very high erosion potential (i.e. Evacuation Creek) are frequently high in salts and can contribute to increased salinity loads to the White River and the Colorado River Basin. Annual runoff is dynamic and dependent on some aspects we control, such as the amount of vegetation retained for watershed protection and vegetation density. Depleting this vegetation cover needed to protect watersheds from raindrop impact and runoff could cause long-term erosion and water quality problems for Evacuation Creek and on downstream. Best management practices (BMPs) are needed to re-establish a protective vegetative cover and to collect sediment during runoff events.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Impacts from the no-action alternative are not anticipated.

Mitigation: Apply the following Conditions of Approval, (BMPs) listed in Appendix B, in the White River ROD/RMP to help minimize surface disturbing impacts:

4. When preparing the site, all suitable topsoil should be stripped from the surface of the location and stockpiled for reclamation. For the interim, if the topsoil is stockpiled on slopes exceeding five percent, construct a berm or trench below the stockpile. Once construction is completed, reclaim as much of the pad that is not needed for maintenance of the well facility.

6. All sediment control structures or disposal pits will be designed to contain a 100-year, 6-hour storm event. Storage volumes within these structures will have a design life of 25 years.

8. All activity shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer.

35. Eliminate undesirable berms that retard normal surface runoff. Fill material associated with construction of this project shall not be deposited in ephemeral draws adjacent to two of these wells.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: Evacuation Creek is well within the standards set by the State. The proposed action will not affect the standards.

WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a finding on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: West Evacuation Creek, a larger perennial stream system on adjacent private lands, supports a rejuvenating willow/sedge-rush riparian community. The proposed action is situated on the gentle gradient valley floor of West Evacuation Creek. The West Evacuation channel is separated from the proposed action by about 1000 feet of ephemeral channel and lies on the opposite side of a maintained county road.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Excessive sediment deposited in these relatively gentle gradient channel systems can destabilize banks and meander patterns and adversely influence both vertical and lateral channel stability. With the incorporation of applicable Best Management Practices for soil and water management, there is no reasonable likelihood that pad development would contribute substantively to the volume of sediments entering the West Evacuation Creek channel. The proposed project is not expected to have any discernible effect on channel function or riparian conditions in West Evacuation Creek.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have any potential influence on riparian function or condition.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: The West Evacuation Creek channel, both nearby private lands and downstream BLM-administered reaches, are actively rejuvenating with improving trends represented by improved channel morphology and increasing complements of erosion-resistant obligate vegetation. The no-action and proposed action, as conditioned, would have a neutral influence on channel function and riparian expression and as such would be consistent with continued meeting of the Land Health Standard for riparian systems.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:
No ACEC's, flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, or Wild and Scenic Rivers, threatened, endangered or sensitive plants exist within the area affected by the proposed action. For threatened, endangered and sensitive plant species Public Land Health Standard is not applicable since neither the proposed nor the no-action alternative would have any influence on populations of, or habitats potentially occupied by, special status plants. There are also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: Baseline soils data have been collected for Rio Blanco County by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and are published in an Order III Soil Survey. This survey is available for review from the White River Field Office. The proposed action is in soil mapping unit #5, Battlement loam, on 1 to 8 percent slopes. This soil is deep, and well drained found on flood plains, stream bottoms, and narrow valley bottoms. It formed in alluvium derived dominantly from sedimentary rock. The native vegetation is mainly sagebrush, grasses, and forbs. Elevation is 5,800 feet to 7,200 feet. The average annual precipitation is 12

to 16 inches, the average annual air temperature is 42 to 46 degrees F, and the average frost-free period is 80 to 105 days.

Typically, the surface layer is dark grayish brown loam about 6 inches thick. The underlying material to a depth of 60 inches or more is light brownish gray, stratified loam and clay loam with lenses of sandy loam and fine sandy loam. Permeability is moderate in the Battlement soil. The available water capacity is high. Runoff is medium, and the hazard of water erosion is slight. Small areas of this soil are subject to rare flooding for brief periods in spring and summer. This soil is only a fair source of reconstruction material for drastically disturbed areas because of excess lime. The capability classification is 4e, irrigated and nonirrigated. This soil is in the Foothill Swale ecological site #285.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: General impacts associated with oil and gas and road development include but are not limited to, loss of topsoil, soil compaction and possible increase in sediment loads to the White River. The primary surface-disturbing impact would be a potential increase in sediment transport from runoff events after the protective vegetative cover has been removed. None of the proposed action is in areas delineated as CSU-1 in the White River ROD/RMP.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Impacts are not anticipated from not permitting the proposed action.

Mitigation: No additional mitigation is recommended above what is already in the proposed action.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: The soil associated with the proposed action is and will continue to be within the criteria of standard 1 for Public Land Health Standards. The proposed action will not affect the soils ability to meet the standard.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The project area vegetation is a sagebrush bottom with predominate species including, basin big sagebrush, greasewood, western wheatgrass, and basin wildrye. There are some pinyon pines encroaching on the site, also there are some coyote willows along the county road where there is sub-irrigation.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Vegetation would be removed by construction activity. Following reclamation the seeded species are expected to establish and stabilize soils within three years. Over time (10 years) these seeded are expected to be replaced by species contained in the adjacent plant community.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts.

Mitigation: No additional mitigation is necessary.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial)*:* The plant communities would after reclamation meet the requirements for soil stabilization and would meet the land health standard for plant communities.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The West Evacuation Creek channel, though perennial in segments, is characterized by low base flows across an unconsolidated soil bed that presently incapable of supporting anything but a rudimentary invertebrate-based aquatic community. See also discussion in Riparian-Wetland Zones.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Excessive sediment deposited in these relatively gentle gradient channel systems can destabilize banks and meander patterns and adversely influence the stability of channel features and water quality that support aquatic communities. With the incorporation of applicable Best Management Practices for soil and water management, there is no reasonable likelihood that pad development would contribute substantively to the volume of sediments entering the West Evacuation Creek channel. The proposed project is not expected to have any discernible effect on channel function or riparian/aquatic conditions in West Evacuation Creek.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have any potential influence on riparian function or condition.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): The West Evacuation Creek channel, both nearby private lands and downstream BLM-administered reaches, are actively rejuvenating with improving trends represented by improved channel morphology and increasing complements of erosion-resistant obligate vegetation. The no-action and proposed action, as conditioned, would have a neutral influence on channel function, riparian expression, and aquatic habitat conditions, and as such, would be consistent with continued channel improvements and meeting of the Land Health Standards for animal communities.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The proposed action is encompassed by the lower elevational extent of deer and ilk summer ranges. Big game use is most prevalent on these basin big sagebrush-greasewood valleys during the transition periods of late summer through early winter and again during the mid to later spring months.

The uplands surrounding the pad location are composed of submature and encroaching pinyon-juniper woodlands that have no effective utility as raptor nest habitat.

Nongame bird abundance and composition associated with the project area's woodland and shrubland habitats are considered representative and complete with no obvious deficiencies in composition. Small mammal populations and distribution are poorly documented; however, the species potentially occurring on these sites are widely distributed throughout the State and the Great Basin or Rocky Mountain regions. All of these upland species display broad ecological tolerance and are documented from habitats ranging from foothill to alpine sites. No narrowly distributed or highly specialized species or subspecific populations are known to occur in the Evacuation Creek drainage.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would involve the longer term occupation of about 2 acres of basin big sagebrush-greasewood community. The dominant components of this shrubland community offer virtually no woody forage value--the bottomlands are used almost exclusively as a source of herbaceous vegetation during big game spring and fall transition periods. Although reduction in the available forage base is incremental, the pre-reclaimed loss is considered discountable, particularly since the utility of these foraging types in the West Evacuation Creek corridor are somewhat reduced by the proximity of the regularly traveled county road.

The longer term removal of up to 2 acres in the West Evacuation Creek bottomlands is negligible and would have no conceivable influence on the abundance or distribution of nongame birds or mammals.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would have any influence on terrestrial wildlife populations or habitat.

Mitigation: None.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): The project areas presently meet the public land health standards for terrestrial animal communities. The proposed action, as conditioned, would not jeopardize the viability of any animal population. It would have negligible consequence on terrestrial habitat condition, utility, and/or function, and would have no discernible effect on animal abundance or distribution at any landscape scale. Lands affected by the no-action or proposed action, as conditioned, would continue to meet the land health standard for big game, raptor, and nongame animals.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, only those brought forward for analysis will be addressed further.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Access and Transportation			X
Cadastral Survey	X		

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Fire Management	X		
Forest Management	X		
Geology and Minerals			X
Hydrology/Water Rights	X		
Law Enforcement		X	
Noise		X	
Paleontology			X
Rangeland Management		X	
Realty Authorizations			X
Recreation			X
Socio-Economics		X	
Visual Resources			X
Wild Horses	X		

ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION

Affected Environment: Rio Blanco County road 25 will be affected by the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: An increase in traffic can be expected while the well is in operation. This increase in heavy vehicle traffic during the construction phase of the pad may impact the surface quality of the road.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: No additional mitigation is necessary.

GEOLOGY AND MINERALS

Affected Environment: The surface geologic formation of the well location is alluvial. Evergreen's targeted zone is in the Mesaverde. During drilling potential water, coal and gas zones will be encountered from surface to the targeted zone. This well is located on existing Federal Oil and Gas leases COC-57321.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Cementing procedure of the proposed actions isolates the formations and will prevent the migration of gas, water, and oil between formations. The coal zones located the Mesaverde will also be isolated during this procedure. Development of these wells will deplete the hydrocarbon resources in the targeted formation.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Maximum economic recovery of the coal natural gas resources in this area will not occur.

Mitigation: None

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: The proposed well pad, access road and well tie pipeline are located in an area mapped as the Wasatch Formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM has classified as a Condition I formation. Condition I formations are formations that are known to produce scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: If it should become necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock to level the pad, construct the road, bury the well tie pipelines or excavate the reserve/blooie pit there is a potential to impact scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to cultural resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: If it should become necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock formation during any phase of construction of the well pad, access road, well tie pipelines or reserve/blooie pit a paleontological monitor shall be present before such excavations begin and during all such excavations.

REALTY AUTHORIZATIONS

Affected Environment: The proposed action is for an access road, hydrocarbon pipeline, and water pipeline for CSF 42-6-5-103 well.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed access road, hydrocarbon pipeline and water pipeline will have to cross the 22-24 inch MAPCO pipeline and the MAPCO loop line (COC29366 & COC62466). Moon Lake has a power line that traverses the same area of the well pad and associated facilities (COC078067). Canyon Gas Resources also has a pipeline (COC012469) that Evergreen will have to cross with their facilities.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts under the no-action alternative.

Mitigation: The Colorado One Call Law will have to be enacted before Evergreen starts construction for this well (1-800-922-1987 or 1-800-833-9417).

Rio Blanco County will have to be notified in order to obtain the required county permits.

Right-of-way stipulations from the right-of-way manual will be applied to this action.

RECREATION

Affected Environment: The proposed action occurs within the White River Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). BLM custodially manages the ERMA to provide for unstructured recreation activities such as hunting, dispersed camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and off-highway vehicle use.

The project areas and the surrounding Evacuation Creek area most resemble a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class of Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM). SPM recreation setting is typically characterized by a natural appearing environment with few administrative controls, low interaction between users but evidence of other users may be present. SPM recreation experience is characterized by a high probability of isolation from the sights and sounds of humans that offers an environment that offers challenge and risk.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The public will lose approximately 2 acres of dispersed recreation potential while wells are in operation. The public will most likely not recreate in the vicinity of these facilities and will be dispersed elsewhere. If action coincides with hunting seasons (September through November) it will most likely disrupt the experience sought by those recreationists.

With the introduction of new well pads and roads, an increase of traffic could be expected increasing the likelihood of human interactions, the sights and sounds associated with the human environment and a less naturally appearing environment.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No loss of dispersed recreation potential and no impact to hunting recreationists.

Mitigation: None.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed action is located within an area with a VRM II classification. The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would be located near the mouth of a small canyon approximately ¼ mile from a route that would be most likely traveled by a casual observer, which is an existing road in Evacuation Creek. The proposed action would be visible from this road and would be visible for approximately ½ mile

of travel and approximately one minute of time. The proposed action would not dominate the view of the casual observer since there is a backdrop of steep ridges with canyons and bluffs on either side of the road. By utilizing low profile production facilities and painting all facilities Juniper Green as stated in APD to mimic the background of woody vegetation, the level of change to the characteristic surrounding landscape would be low. The objective of the VRM II classification would be retained.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no additional environmental impacts from the no action alternative.

Mitigation: Use low profile production facilities and paint all production facilities as stated in APD.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: The Cumulative impacts of oil and gas developments in this area were analyzed in the White River RMP, based on a reasonable foreseeable development scenario which assumed a total of ten acres per well/pad. This action would involve fewer acres, and the resultant cumulative impacts would be consistent with that analysis.

REFERENCES CITED

Metcalf, Michael D.
2004 Evergreen Resources, Inc.: Class III Cultural Resource Inventories of Two Proposed Columbine Springs Federal Well Pads, Access Roads and Pipelines (CSF#24-3-5-102 and CSF#42-6-5-102) in Garfield County, Colorado. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Eagle, Colorado.

Tweto, Ogden
1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED: None

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Carol Hollowed	Hydrologist	Air Quality
Tamara Meagley	Natural Resource Specialist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Tamara Meagley	Natural Resource Specialist	Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources Paleontological Resources
Robert Fowler	Forester	Invasive, Non-Native Species
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species
Bo Brown	Hazmat Collateral	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Carol Hollowed	Hydrologist	Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness
Carol Hollowed	Hydrologist	Soils
Robert Fowler	Forester	Vegetation
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Terrestrial and Aquatic
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Access and Transportation
Ken Holsinger	Natural Resource Specialist	Fire Management
Robert Fowler	Forester	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Robert Fowler	Forester	Rangeland Management
Penny Brown	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Chris Ham	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation
Keith Whitaker	Natural Resource Specialist	Visual Resources
Valerie Dobrich	Natural Resource Specialist	Wild Horses

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

CO-110-2005-009-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE: The environmental assessment and analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION/RATIONALE: It is my decision to approve the development of Well #CFS 42-6-5 as described in the proposed action, with mitigation listed below. This development, with mitigation, is consistent with the decisions in the White River ROD/RMP, and environmental impacts will be minimal.

MITIGATION MEASURES:

1. Require dust abatement measures in the authorizing document

2. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- -whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- -the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- -a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

3.Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items,

sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

4. From the WRRA ROD/RMP of 1997, Appendix B, Application of herbicides must be under field supervision of an EPA-certified pesticide applicator. Herbicides must be registered by the EPA and application proposals must be approved by the BLM.

5. Seed species used in reseeding disturbed areas will be based on the seed mixes identified in table B1 and B2. These mixes are based on range sites as determined by soils. Use Standard Seed Mix #2 listed below.

Table B-1. Standard Seed Mixes

Seed Mix #	Species (Variety)	Lbs PLS/ Acre	Range sites
2	Western wheatgrass (Arriba) Pubescent wheatgrass (Luna) Russian wildrye (Bozoisky) Crested wheatgrass (Fairway/Ephraim) Yellow sweetclover (Madrid) Fourwing saltbush (Wytana/Rincon)	3 2 2 2 0.5 2	Alkaline Slopes, Clayey Foothills, Clayey Slopes, Claypan, Mountain Shale

6. The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by the proposed actions.

7. When preparing the site, all suitable topsoil should be stripped from the surface of the location and stockpiled for reclamation. For the interim, if the topsoil is stockpiled on slopes exceeding five percent, construct a berm or trench below the stockpile. Once construction is completed, reclaim as much of the pad that is not needed for maintenance of the well facility.

8. All sediment control structures or disposal pits will be designed to contain a 100-year, 6-hour storm event. Storage volumes within these structures will have a design life of 25 years.

9. All activity shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer.

10. Eliminate undesirable berms that retard normal surface runoff. Fill material associated with construction of this project shall not be deposited in ephemeral draws adjacent to two of these wells.

11. If it should become necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock formation during any phase of construction of the well pad, access road, well tie pipelines or reserve/blooie pit a paleontological monitor shall be present before such excavations begin and during all such excavations.

12. The Colorado One Call Law will have to be enacted before Evergreen starts construction for this well (1-800-922-1987 or 1-800-833-9417). Rio Blanco County will have to be notified in order to obtain the required county permits. Right-of-way stipulations from the right-of-way manual will be applied to this action.

13. Use low profile production facilities and paint all production facilities as stated in APD.

NAME OF PREPARER: Keith Whitaker

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Caroline Hollowed

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: _____
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 11/19/04

ATTACHMENTS: Location map of the proposed action.

Location of Proposed Action
CO-110-2005-009-EA